(iii) Giving a greater impetus to the development and training of its employees.

(iv) Institution of rewards and recognition schemes for its employees who perform well.

(v) Introducing local allowances for the employees posted at remote projects/stations.

(vi) Trying to ensure a tenure based transfer policy for its employees.

(f) Recruitment through campus were conducted for the first time from the institutes selected from those regions, where NHPC is actively involved in developing hydro potential.

NHPC has received requests from top Institutes like IIT - Delhi, IIT - Kharagpur, IIT - Guwahati, IIT - Roorkee and Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi etc. this year for campus recruitment.

Power distribution management system

268. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to connect all the major towns and cities in the country through a complex power distribution management system, to deal with blackouts and thefts;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up a supervisory control and data acquisition system, to manage every generation and transmission system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Government have approved the continuation of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) during the XIth Five Year Plan with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector Scheme. The focus of the programme is on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction. Establishment of reliable and automated systems for sustained collection of accurate base line data, and the adoption of Information Technology in the areas of energy accounting are the necessary pre-conditions before sanctioning any projects for strengthening and up-gradation of sub-transmission and distribution networks. Projects under the scheme are to be taken up in Two Parts. Part-A is to include the projects for establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting/auditing and IT based consumer service centers. Establishment of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) can also be taken up in the project areas with population more than 4 lacs and annual input energy of the order of 350 MU. Part-B includes regular distribution strengthening projects. Initially, for the projects under both the parts will be provided through loan (100% for Part-A and 25% for part-B, balance to be raised by state utilities through Financial Institutions, except special category and North-Eastern states, for which under Part-B, 90% loan will be provided) which will be converted into grant on fulfillment of conversion conditionalities, namely:

(i) the entire amount of loan for part-A projects is to be converted into grant once the establishment of the required baseline data system is achieved and verified by an independent agency appointed by Ministry of Power.

(ii) Upto 50% of loan for part-B projects can be converted into grant (proportionate to achievement of targets) on achieving 15% AT and C loss levels on projects areas for a sustained period of 5 years. In addition, utility level loss reduction (AT and C losses) @ 3% per annum for utilities with baseline loss levels exceeding 30% and @ 1.5% for utilities with baseline loss levels less than 30% have to be achieved.

Operationalisation of Open Access principle

269. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved, so far, in the operationalisation of Open Access principle provided in the Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) whether Government has made any effort to ensure that the provision contained in the Electricity Act is fully adopted by all the States;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) (i) About 25467 transactions for short-term Open Access in inter-state transmission (excluding the transactions through power exchange) for total volume of 106 BU, have been approved till August 2008.

(ii) 87 applications for Open Access in distribution with capacity of 5365 MW have been approved.

(iii) 21 SERCs have issued regulations on open access in distribution 21 SERCs have determined Transmission Charges, 18 SERCs have determined Wheeling Charges and 19 SERCs have determined Cross Subsidy Surcharge for open access for intra-state open access.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) The Chief Ministers Conference in May, 2007 had resolved to operationalise open access in transmission and distribution.

(ii) To deliberate and operationalise the open access a Round Table was organized with the Forum of Regulators and Energy Secretaries in November, 2007.

(iii) In the conference of Chief Secretaries on 19th February, 2008, it was agreed that:

- SERCs will notify open access charges by the end of February, 2008. If necessary, State Government should give policy directions.
- SLDC should be made independent in functioning by the end of March, 2008.
- The State Governments should curb anti-competitive arrangements which were restricting the free flow of electricity.
- The Power Secretaries of the States should review monthly the decisions taken by SLDCs on open access applications.

(iv) Task Force headed by Member, CERC constituted to examine issues related to scheduling, metering and settlement of intra state Open access transactions.